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Application No.: 10/661923
Docket No.: CH2911USNAAMENDED CLAIMS

The amended claims are marked with underlining to show additions and strike-through to show deletions.

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for temporarily suppressing the repellency of an extruded or molded object, said object comprising a mixture of a polyolefin polymer and a fluorocarbon/hydrocarbon ester and having surface repellency, comprising heating the object to a temperature of above 40°C, holding for at least 10 seconds and cooling to about ambient temperature to yield the object having suppressed repellency.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the heating temperature is above about 60°C and the holding time is above about 1 minute.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the heating temperature is above about 70°C and the holding time is above about 5 minutes.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the heating temperature is from about 70°C to about 150°C and the holding time is from about 1 to about 15 minutes.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the object is selected from the group consisting of fibers, filaments, fabrics, films, sheets, nonwoven, molded articles, shaped articles, and solid objects.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the object is a nonwoven fabric.
7. (Currently Amended) A method of modifying a surface of an extruded or molded object, said object comprising a mixture of a polyolefin polymer and a fluorocarbon/hydrocarbon ester and having surface repellency, comprising heating the object to a temperature of above 40°C for at least 10 seconds, cooling the object to about ambient temperature, and applying a surface modifier to the object within a period of about 48 hours after said cooling.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the applying of a surface modifier is selected from the group consisting of printing, dyeing, painting, adhesive application, thermobonding, and laminating.
9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the heating temperature is from about 70°C to about 150°C and the holding time is from about 1 to about 15 minutes.

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10. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising an extruded or molded mixture of a polyolefin polymer and a fluorocarbon/hydrocarbon ester, having a surface which is modified by heating to a temperature of above 40°C for at least 10 seconds; cooling to about ambient temperature; and applying a surface modifier within a period of 48 hours after said cooling.

11. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 10 wherein the surface is modified by at least one of printing, dyeing, painting, applying adhesive, thermobonding or laminating.

12. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 10 wherein the heating temperature is from about 70°C to about 150°C and the holding time is from about 1 to about 15 minutes.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~An improved~~ In a method of making extruded or molded objects having a ~~modified~~ repellent surface wherein a fluorocarbon/hydrocarbon ester is added to a polyolefin prior to extrusion or molding wherein the improvement comprises incorporating a heating and cooling step after extrusion or molding prior to modification of the surface of the object.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein heating is to a temperature above 40°C for at least 10 seconds.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein heating is to a temperature of from about 70°C to about 150°C for a time of from about 1 minute to about 15 minutes.